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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /078 W
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O P 240910Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7120
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 990
LAGOS PRIORITY 275

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0788

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, RH, MZ
SUBJECT: RHODESIAN ATTACKS ON MOZAMBIQUE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED . GPRM ANNOUNCED JUNE 23 THAT ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 22, AT 1900GMT RHODESIAN TROOPS ATTACKED THE SUSSUNDENG A AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS NEAR CHIMOIO IN MANICA PROVINCE. THE TROOPS KILLED A BELGIAN U.N. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION TECHNICIAN AND HIS WIFE, AND REPORTEDLY KILLED OTHER MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TECHNICIANS AND SEVENTEEN REFUGEES IN TRANSIT TO A REFUGEE CAMP. THE ATTACKERS ALSO TOOK A GROUP OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS PRISONERS.

2. THE COMMUNIQUE REPORTS THAT AT THE SAME TIME RHODESIANS USING HELICOPTERS, BOMBERS AND JETS, ATTACKED THE DISTRICT OF MASSANGENA (NORTHERN GAZA PROVINCE, ALONG THE SAVE RIVER). THE REPORT ADDED THAT COMBAT WAS CONTINUING AT THE TIME OF THE ISSUANCE
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OF THE COMMUNIQUE, AND THAT VARIOUS ENEMY EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY MOZAMBIQUE FORCES.

3. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT ON JUNE 19 RHODESIAN FORCES WERE REPELLED BY GPRM TROOPS WHEN THEY INVADED THE MOZAMBIQUE ZONES OF VOUGA AND MACHAILA (LIMPOPO DISTRICT OF GAZA PROVINCE).

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4. COMMENT: THESE RHODESIAN ATTACKS ON MOZAMBIQUE ARE THE FIRST
TO HAVE BEEN REPORTED SINCE THE MARCH INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN
RHODESIA. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: SHORTLY AFTER RHODESIAN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT
PRESIDENT MACHEL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT ANY NEW INCURSIONS BY
RHODESIAN FORCES WOULD BE VIEWED VERY SERIOUSLY BY THE GPRM
BECAUSE SUCH ATTACKS WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE THE APPROVAL OF
MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE AS WELL AS OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN RHODESIA.

6. WHILE WE BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE THAT MOZAMBIQUE'S ARMED
FORCES NOW CAN DO TO LIMIT RHODESIAN ATTACKS, THE KILLING OF UN
PERSONNEL DRAWS MORE ATTENTION
TO MOZAMBIQUE'S INADEQUATE BORDER DEFENSES AND MAY INCREASE PRESSURE
ON MACHEL TO SEEK ADDITIONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND PERHAPS MORE
FOREIGN ADVISORS.
TO BOSTER THESE DEFENSES. END CONFIDENTIAL.
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